

VIIIA *The Inert Gases*

In order of increasing atomic number the members of group VIIIA of the periodic table are:

helium,
neon,
argon,
krypton,
xenon and
radon.

The elements of this group (sometimes known as the Noble Gases) are characterized by their closed shells or subshells of electrons. They are considered as having zero valence. The name of this group derives from the lack of chemical activity which the elements display, forming compounds only under abnormal conditions (high pressures, strong electrical fields, etc.) conditions.